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latter and angers them all the more. The play-groups cut across the boundaries of family and caste and include boys and girls from different castes. This necessitates the giving of instruction to them by the elders, who explain the hierarchy of the caste system and indicate clearly the groups among whom participation in eating on a basis of equality is permitted. Rules of inter-dining and untouchability are enforced at the age of six or seven; although until the age of adolescence their breaches are not very strictly punished. At the age of six or seven boys and girls come to have their separate play-groups, although their occasional playing together is not prohibited. Sex knowledge and sex experience of the children widens considerably, partly through secretly watching and imitating the elders, partly through oral instruction by older members of the play-group. Masturbation is now stealthily practised. Elders do not take an indulgent view if they find grown-up boys manipulating and rubbing their penes. Ridicule and threats are often employed to cure the habit. The threats commonly given are: 'If you persist in this habit your organ will not grow'; or that 'It will become crooked and you will be useless.' Threats of exposure cause great shame among the boys. Nevertheless, knowledge acquired from older and more experienced members of the age-group indicates that 'the penis grows larger by the practice of masturbation', 'maturity is arrived at earlier' and 'boys not doing it are not tough—they are half-girls', and consequently boys continue to masturbate secretly. A small group of boys may occasionally have a session of joint masturbation. Mutual masturbation is known, though it is less frequent. Similarly, little boys lie down together and imitate the coital act, although this does not involve actual anal penetration. Homosexuality is said to be confined to young people and boys with urban contacts; but we have reason to believe that it is practised on a limited scale by others also. However, it is confined only to pre-adolescent and adolescent groups. A boy persuades a smaller boy to lie down with him, and just rubs his organ at his anus—only in very rare cases is any anal penetration effected. A popular game with the boys is to make a female figure in dust and play at copulation. In the three instances observed by us the imitation was perfect, and resembled normal coitus in all its essentials. Boys and girls play at marriage, which in a few cases culminates in the act of 'sleeping together'. In most cases this is just lying together and no more; in a few it reaches the

point of rubbing genital organs. Girls masturbate either by pressing and releasing their clitoris with their fingers or by rubbing their thighs. Obscenity and talk about sex are disapproved by the elders, but the boys regard it as a mark of toughness and as an indication of their grown-up status, and as such indulge in it fairly regularly. Their vocabulary of abuse includes all the major sexual words, and they can often be heard abusing each other in terms such as: 'Copulate with your mother', 'Cohabit with your sister', 'My penis!'—or the rather curious 'Your mother's penis'.

Most children's games involve competition in the use of skills and stamina. The children are divided into several groups and factions, and these often come into conflict on account of intense jealousies and rivalries. Elaborate group *mores* and codes of ethics govern their inter-relations during states of friendship, neutrality and enmity. Toughness in boys is the admired quality; weakness, refined ways, spying and complaining coming in for criticism and ridicule. Running away from fright, crying and treachery to the group are remembered long after the quarrels and restoration of peace between conflicting factions. Outside the play-group the growing children have to lend a helping hand to their parents. Grown-up girls assist their mothers at their domestic tasks and take partial charge of their younger siblings, while boys do odd jobs for the father and other older male relatives. It is now time that they should take their first steps in preparing for adult life.

Adolescence brings about a significant change in the life of both boys and girls. By this age girls are expected to become proficient in all the major domestic tasks. Negotiations for their marriage are invariably started at this age. They grow up faster than the boys. While boys of a comparable age are still regarded as 'grown-up children who do not understand', girls come to be looked upon more or less as fully-grown women. Now they must be careful about their dress; particularly their breasts should never be exposed. They should 'not run about the village like boys', nor should they talk or laugh so loudly as to attract notice. Mothers advise them to be cautious in their behaviour, for this is the age when young people start giving attention to them. Young people have a special fascination for adolescent girls 'whose youth is just beginning to blossom'. Young men succeeding in fondling 'the unripe, half-developed breasts' of a girl and in having intercourse with one 'whose pubic hair is just beginning to grow' easily win the